USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

Released: July 19, 2010
Vol. 60, WC071910

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 18

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Hot temperatures persisted throughout the week, causing stress to both crops and livestock across the state, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Scattered thunderstorms moved across the state producing varying amounts of rainfall. Farmers in northern counties continued running irrigation systems where rainfall was inadequate. Airplanes were busy applying fungicides for gray leaf spot and also insecticides for western bean cutworm control. High humidity during the week made it difficult to bale hay as it was slow to dry down.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.6 **days suitable for field work.** Eighty-one percent of the **corn** crop has **silked** compared with 26 percent last year and 50 percent for the 5-year average. Corn **condition** is rated 62 percent good to excellent compared with 65 percent last year at this time.

Sixty-five percent of the intended **soybean** acreage is **blooming** compared with 30 percent last year and 45 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty-four percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 0 percent last year and 7 percent for the 5-year average. Soybean condition is rated 62 percent good to excellent compared with 63 percent last year.

Ninety-nine percent of the **winter wheat** crop has been **harvested** compared with 94 percent for both last year and the 5-year average. Yield and condition of the crop varied greatly across the state.

Major activities during the week included: scouting crop fields, baling straw, cutting hay, monitoring irrigation systems, applying herbicides and insecticides, attending county fairs, mowing roadsides and ditches and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 68 percent good to excellent compared with 70 percent last year. Livestock continued to be under stress from the heat, but are in mostly good condition. The **second cutting** of **alfalfa hay** is 73 percent complete compared with 67 percent last year and 72 percent for the 5-year average.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Silked (Tasseled)	81	62	26	50
Soybeans Blooming	65	48	30	45
Soybeans Setting Pods	24	9	0	7
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	94	94	94
Alfalfa, Second Cutting	73	51	67	72

CROP CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Corn	4	9	25	45	17
Soybean	3	9	26	46	16
Pasture	1	5	26	50	18

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK

Soil Moisture	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	2	2
Short	21	18	22
Adequate	66	71	62
Surplus	10	9	14
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	2
Short	18	13	17
Adequate	72	76	69
Surplus	9	10	12
Days Suitable	5.6	5.7	5.3

CONTACT INFORMATION

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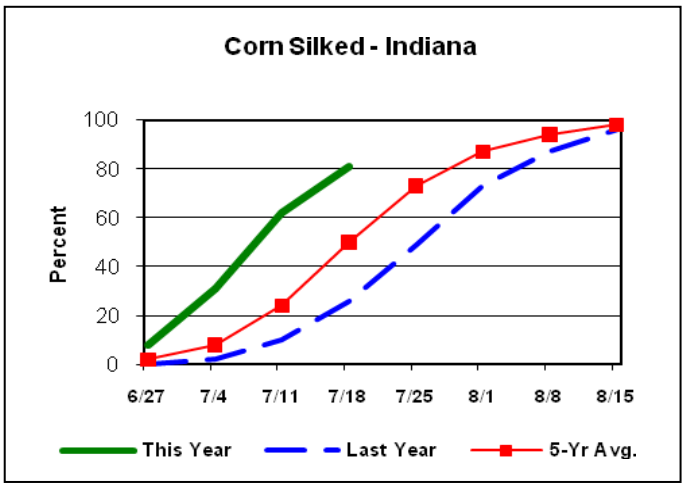
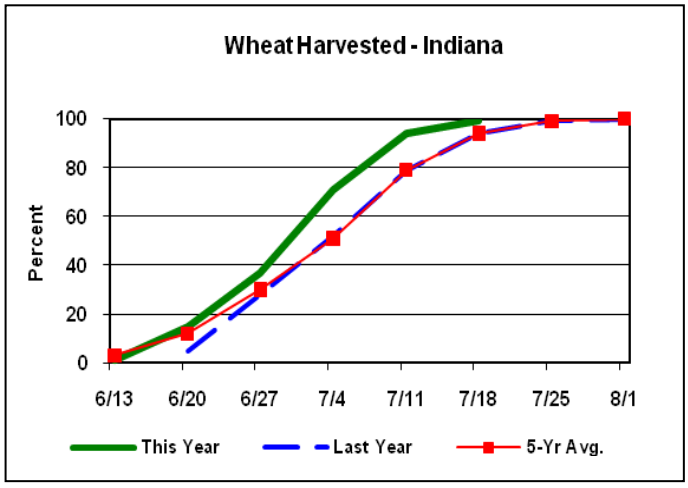
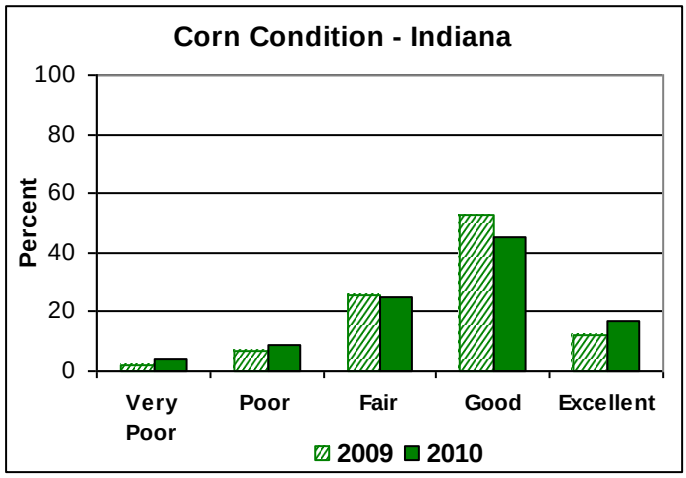
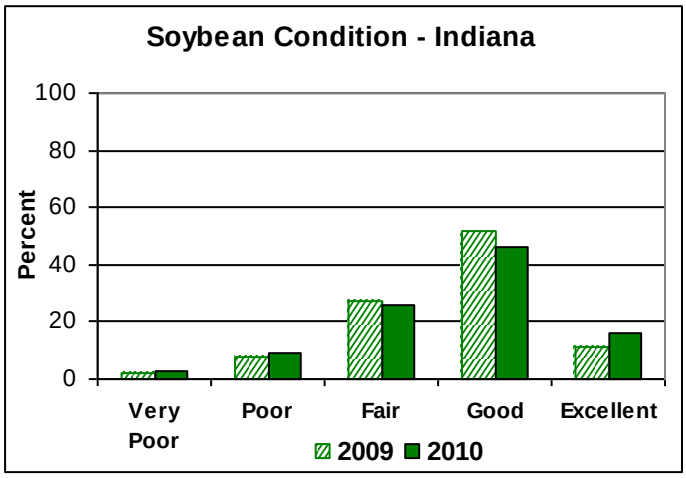
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Crop Progress









Other Agricultural Comments And News

More on Foliar Fungicides in Corn

Written by Paul Vincelli, University of Kentucky

In recent years, the use of foliar fungicides in corn production has received a lot of attention. Last week, plant pathologists from Iowa State University (Drs. Daren Mueller and Alison Robertson) published a summary of the independent research done in Iowa on corn fungicides for 2007-2009. (For the full article, see http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2010/0706muellerandrobertson.htm.)

Here is a summary of the research, in their own words:
"Data from corn fungicide small plot trials conducted by Iowa State University faculty and staff, and on-farm trials conducted by the Iowa Soybean Association On-Farm Network, the ISU Corn and Soybean Initiative and the ISU Northwest On-Farm research program were recently collated and summarized:

- For the total 574 observations, the overall mean yield response was 4.04 bu/A.
- Yield response of small plot trials (173 observations) was 4.39 bu/A, compared with 3.89 bu/A for on-farm strip trials (401 observations).
- The mean yield response in all years was similar: 3.42 bu/A (2007), 3.83 bu/A (2008) and 3.72 bu/A (2009).
- The mean yield response was higher in corn-following corn trials compared with corn-following soybean trials (4.54 bu/A vs 3.96 bu/A).
- Applications at VT, R1 or R2 resulted in the highest mean yield response (4.12 bu/A, 4.21 bu/A and 4.17 bu/A, respectively).
- Greater yield responses occurred with fungicides that contained a strobilurin alone (4.57 bu/A) compared with fungicides that contained a premix of a strobilurin and a triazole (2.85 bu/A). (Side comment: It will be interesting to see if the trend continues, since the newer premixes contain roughly equivalent amounts of strobilurin active as the strobilurin alone fungicides.)

(continued on back page)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday, July 18, 2010

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
		Air Temperature			Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 2010 through July 18, 2010				
								Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	89	63	76	+2	0.70	2		22.84	+9.33	47	1714	+146
Francesville	88	60	74	+2	1.98	5		17.46	+3.77	47	1682	+252
Valparaiso_AP_I	92	62	76	+4	1.06	3		17.91	+3.47	47	1710	+316
Wanatah	90	61	75	+3	1.19	3	79	17.99	+4.07	42	1606	+277
Winamac	90	63	77	+4	1.59	5	77	16.54	+2.85	48	1749	+319
North Central (2)												
Plymouth	91	63	76	+3	1.05	2		15.91	+1.57	38	1642	+151
South_Bend	93	64	77	+5	0.32	3		14.83	+1.42	42	1701	+324
Young_America	89	64	76	+3	0.76	2		21.36	+8.22	39	1727	+270
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	94	65	79	+5	0.03	1		15.88	+3.45	42	1937	+490
Kendallville	92	64	77	+5	0.82	4		14.97	+1.81	55	1637	+279
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	89	62	76	+0	3.70	3		21.33	+6.12	46	1725	+63
Perrysville	92	65	78	+4	3.30	3	85	21.16	+6.39	42	1994	+439
Spencer_Ag	92	62	78	+3	1.65	3		23.80	+8.13	46	1881	+329
Terre_Haute_AFB	93	67	79	+4	2.20	3		20.71	+5.90	49	2063	+403
W_Lafayette_6NW	90	63	77	+4	1.21	2	85	19.96	+6.39	38	1859	+398
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	92	68	79	+4	0.92	4		17.80	+4.03	45	2097	+454
Greenfield	92	66	78	+4	0.78	2		22.41	+7.50	47	1937	+375
Indianapolis_AP	93	69	80	+5	0.45	2		17.82	+4.05	40	2159	+516
Indianapolis_SE	91	64	77	+2	1.20	3		19.83	+5.63	43	1881	+261
Tipton_Ag	90	60	76	+3	1.48	2	82	19.69	+6.07	45	1781	+369
East Central (6)												
Farmland	91	64	77	+5	0.99	4	82	18.18	+4.48	52	1807	+439
New_Castle	91	61	75	+2	3.54	4		23.88	+8.93	45	1718	+318
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	96	71	82	+4	1.51	3		11.06	-3.58	38	2392	+444
Freelandville	94	66	79	+3	1.30	3		18.43	+3.34	41	2148	+425
Shoals_8S	95	63	79	+4	1.67	3		20.23	+3.99	33	1965	+315
Stendal	94	70	82	+5	3.04	3		15.39	-0.88	35	2422	+606
Vincennes_5NE	96	63	80	+4	3.33	4	83	20.07	+4.98	44	2200	+477
South Central (8)												
Leavenworth	94	67	79	+5	1.72	5		16.13	-0.28	55	2171	+523
Oolitic	92	63	78	+4	0.58	4	87	21.31	+5.92	45	1927	+359
Tell_City	94	68	80	+3	3.40	3		17.00	+0.60	32	2320	+484
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	92	61	77	+4	0.80	2		17.93	+3.24	42	1935	+466
Greensburg	93	68	80	+7	0.27	2		18.73	+3.83	42	2118	+581
Seymour	93	65	77	+4	0.62	3		17.34	+2.61	38	1919	+333

DFN = Departure From Normal.
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com
or call 1-888-798-9955.

- Mean yield response was greatest when disease severity in a field at R5 was high. If disease severity on the ear leaf at R5 was <5 percent, mean yield response was 4.83 bu/A, however, when disease severity on the ear leaf at R5 was >5 percent, the mean yield response was 9.46 bu/A.
- Based on the price of corn of $3.72 and $24 product + application, the breakeven yield response is 6.45 bu/A".

Consistent with the university research in Kentucky and throughout the Corn Belt, there seems to be no justification for widespread use of fungicides in corn. If one is planning to use a fungicide, it makes sense to allocate the application to fields with the highest disease risk. I know I must sound like a "broken record", since I have repeated this theme so many times in the past year or two. However, the growing mountain of research continues to point to this basic conclusion, and it is so important that it is worth repeating over and over.

Bottom line: Indiscriminate use of fungicides on corn is not likely to lead to increased yield and profitability. In fact, it likely will reduce the profitability of the average corn field.

The INDIANA CROP & WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN43-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the USDA, NASS Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite 110, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4151.

WEEKLY NEWS REPORT

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